VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA | November 2016

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:00 PM 330 Nut Tree Road, (Nut Tree Airport)

Wheelchair accessible

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr

Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeater
WV6F 440.025(+)

2016 Officers

President: Marcus MacLean-KI6WDX
VP: Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt-K6HEW
Secretary: Brian Hagen-KK6BXP

Board of Directors:
Brian Hagen-KK6BXP
Ruff Gunn-K6DME
Antonio Del Rio-N6ZGB
Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Arthur Miller-KI6UXE

APPOINTED POSITIONS
VVRC Net Control Chairperson
Club Activities Chairperson-Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ
Newsletter Editor-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publishe/ Distributor-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

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PRESIDENT' MESSAGE

My Fellow Club Members -

Well, the time is drawing near for the upcoming club officers and B.O.D. elections and in my tenure as your club president, it has been an honor to serve and to direct this club and its membership in the direction it is presently. As I stated in my turn as the Net Control operator on October 11th, the election process will be done as per the club's bylaws constitution. If I am re-elected for another term, my goals for this radio club will remain unchanged: Increased membership, community involvement, better club meeting presentations and better visibility to the general public. I'd like to see our radio club in a booth at the yearly Vacaville Farmers Market as much as doable possible because greater exposure of this club will likely lead to better community relations and involvement. While I was unable to be at this year's annual Field Day event, for the 2017 Field Day event, I'd like to see a large tent erected to help shade those operators from the searing sun and as how best to keep them cool inside of the open air tent, I have a few ideas that I will divulge closer to the 2017 event.

But if I am not re-elected for another term, my best wishes to the elected incoming club president and to those newly elected club officers and B.O.D.'s. OK, on to other important items. The annual Merriment-On-Main event is fast approaching and I'd like to see as many club members involved in this event as possible as you only need a dual band FM handheld radio (HT) and be willing to help out for an evening in old downtown Vacaville. There are generally plenty of event vendors that have hot chocolate, hot apple cider and cookies or the like available during the event. Just remember to dress warmly and if possible, bring along the XYL or YL! This event topic will be brought up at the November club meeting and I'd like to see those willing to help out to sign up with Bob, K6HEW. At the November 10th club meeting, I will be giving a presentation on JT65-HF and WSJT-X digital radio. I will have handout information and the presentation will help those operators who aren't having the best time in working SSB voice an opportunity to take a look at operating a digital radio station until such time that the band conditions improve and those sun spots once again appear making us operators switch over to the voice modes. My presentation will revolve around the use of either using a desktop or laptop computer with the digital modes and the "why" in using them.

The annual Christmas dinner will also be discussed at the November club meeting and where exactly it is to be held. So please attend the November club meeting so as to not miss out on the important information to be discussed.

Marcus Maclean

KI6WDX

VVRC September / October 2016. Meeting notes

September was a smooth month with no business and big presentation by Kevin N6VLF about repeater hardware.

October notes:

Meeting room is open at 6:30 PM & until 10 PM. We welcome you to socialize before and after the actual meeting. You night find someone who is doing a project that you are doing / have done and get some help. Imagine that!

Officer present, Brian KK6BXP

Board member present, Ruff K6DMEYes, a bit thin this month around, yet we can adapt and the show went on.

Visited by Jerry Olive, KD6WKY, regarding the upcoming merriment on main event in December. Specific details for the event are in Novembers meeting and your point of contact is Bob Hewitt K6HEW for all Merriment On Main related items. Bob's mini presentation was a knock on the door of what will present itself for next meeting and Bob will cover these details in November's meeting. The obvious item then, is to be there.

MERRIMENT ON MAIN IS ==> TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH

EVENT HOURS ARE; 5PM TO 9PM

For the November election, Frank KJ6WRQ made interest to be the President for the 2017 year.

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Brian KK6BXP, plans to continue as secretary for 2017. Bob K6HEW is treasurer. This left the Vice President spot open (some has stepped up for this position since the meeting) and some board member positions (1 to 3) to be filled. You will find the title descriptions in the VVRC Club constitution & by-laws on the w6vvr.net website.

Other upcoming things: November 10 is last in person meeting for the 2016 year. It is also the voting meeting. This year it will be an input from all opportunity on what other things would we like to do as a club, besides Field Day and Merriment On Main 2017. November 29 is Merriment On Main.

December 8 is Last social meet up for 2016. Where is to be announced at November 10th Meeting!

FINAL THOUGHTS: not part of the record I see some old men with burnt sticks, poking each other in the eye. I don't know if I should stop them, laugh, or keep watching the free entertainment. But this I know, it looks bad on you and your fellow hams are tired of it. So, knock it off. You are grown men, and my 6 year old behaves better.

As for the initial lack of interest in the Vice President position, I dedicate the chicken dance to the October meeting.

Brian, KK6BXP

Merriment on Main

For those of you who are new to the Vacaville area or new to the Vaca Valley Radio Club, Merriment on Main is the annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony for the city of Vacaville. The event's lead sponsor is the Vacaville Reporter with lots of support from Vacaville merchants and service clubs. The Vaca Radio Club has

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been providing its support for over twenty years.

During the event thousands of visitors stroll the streets in downtown that have been closed to vehicular traffic visiting the many booths that have been setup to give out Christmas style treats. In keeping with the spirt of the season, none of the booths are permitted to charge for the items they have to offer. Stages are set up and performers from around the area entertain the visitors as they stroll.

Ham operators provide service by suppling additional eyes and ears throughout the downtown area and reporting problems back to headquarters. They are given a distinctive Merriment on Main sweat shirt that easily identifies them as being a source of information. Visitor will ask them questions such as "Where's the restroom." and where various groups are performing. During the first portion of the event, the hams are stationed specific locations. Later on, (and with Net Controls blessing) they can walk around the entire venue and enjoy the event along with all the visitors. It's a great evening for hams and visitors alike.

This year, the Vaca Valley Radio Club's representative to the event is Bob, K6HEW. If you would like to participate please give him a call at 707-448-5665 or email him at k6hew@w6vvr.net.

I've been told that Marcus is going to do a presentation at the November meeting. That's great!
I would also like to do a short presentation in preparation for Merriment on Main prior to his.

It's called "Net Operations at Public Service Events". One of the members at the last meeting suggested that since we have a lot of new people, they might not know the proper procedures. Even for old timers, it's good a refresher.

Bob, K6HEW

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB				
TREASURER'S REPORT				
AS OF October 16, 2016				
	GENERAL FUND	REPEATER FUND	PROJ FUND	TOTAL
YTD Paid	484.99	0.00	0.00	484.99
YTD Rcvd.	594.00	130.00	0.00	724.00
Year To Date	2623.44	140.00	616.00	3379.44

ARTICLE 3: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1.

The president shall preside at all board meetings and club meetings. The president shall enforce due observance of this constitution and by-laws; decide all questions of order; sign all official documents adopted by the club, and perform all other duties pertaining to the office of president.

Section 2.

The vice-president shall in the absence of the president preside at all board meetings and club meetings. The vice-president shall supervise and be responsible for weekly radio nets for the dissemination of information of common interest to members. The vice-president shall be responsible for scheduling of club activities and meeting programs.

Section 3.

The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of board of director's meetings and club meetings, compile records of all duly constituted committees and conduct all written correspondence and forms submitted directly by committees. The secretary shall turn over all items pertaining to their office and belonging to the club to the duly elected successor at the expiration of the term of office.

Section 4.

The treasurer shall receive and receipt for all moneys paid to the club; keep an accurate account of all moneys received and expended; pay bills when properly authorized; and submit all necessary forms to Federal and State agencies. The treasurer shall maintain a current list of all members in good standing and present membership applications. The treasurer shall submit bills for payment to those owing money to the club. The treasurer shall turn over all items pertaining to their office and belonging to the club to the duly elected successor at the expiration of the term of office. The term of office shall be two calendar years.

Section 5.

The four directors will attend the board of directors meetings. The four directors are responsible for voting in the best interest of the club and Amateur Radio. The directors are expected to solicit opinions and ideas from the general membership and represent them at the board of directors meetings.

California has upped its game on distracted driving

California has upped its game in cracking down on distracted driving, and radio amateurs there are concerned that a recent revision to the state's Motor Vehicle Code could affect Amateur Radio mobile operation.

The old law, which included an Amateur Radio exemption, already prohibited motorists from using electronic wireless communication devices to write, send, or read a text-based communication while in motion, unless the device was configured for voice-operated and hands-free operation. The revised law does not exempt Amateur Radio.

Assembly Bill 1785, signed into law on September 26 by Governor Jerry Brown, prohibits a motorist from driving "while holding and operating" a handheld wireless telephone or a wireless electronic communication device, as defined by the code. But it authorizes a driver to operate such devices mounted on a vehicle's windshield like a GPS or on the dashboard or center console "in a manner that does not hinder the driver's view of the road," if the driver can activate or deactivate a feature or function "with the motion of a single swipe or tap of the finger."

The language defining devices covered by the law does not accurately specify what activity is prohibited, leaving its application subject to misinterpretation by individual law enforcement officers, but it does not specifically proscribe use of mobile Amateur Radio equipment for voice communication. The list of covered devices includes, but is not limited to, "a broadband personal communication device, a specialized mobile radio device, a handheld device or laptop computer with mobile data access, a pager, or a two-way messaging device." A first offense would incur a $20 base fine and $50 for subsequent offenses.

Initial wording of the legislation was not considered to be a threat to Amateur Radio operation, but the measure's language changed substantially as it worked its way through the California General Assembly.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said there are two principal ways to protect Amateur

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Radio in this type of legislation. "One is by sufficiently narrowly defining prohibited activity so as to exclude Amateur Radio," he said. "The other is to create specific exemptions where the definitions are confusing. This new statute is an example of bad legislative draftsmanship. It creates a motor vehicle law with citations issued for certain activity that includes the words 'but is not limited to' in the language defining the violation."

In addition to scrutinizing the language of the revision, ARRL will be consulting with Field Organization officials in California to determine its next steps.

From ARRL Contest Update; October 5, 2016

An upgrade to the password checking mechanism that authenticates Logbook of The World (LoTW) users has caused log-in problems for some clients.

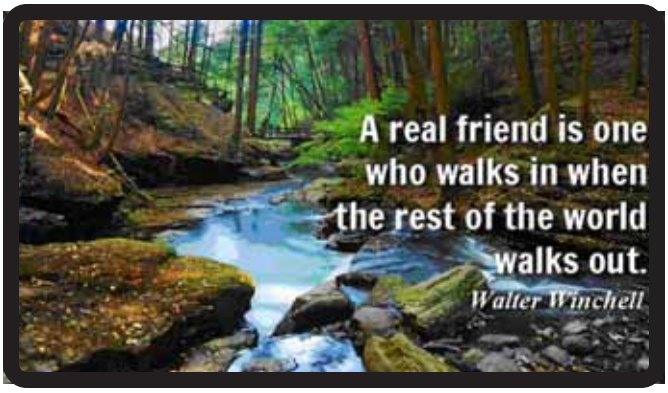
Under the system in place prior to approximately 2300 UTC on September 19, the LoTW log-in system ignored the case of any characters in a password when checking for a match, storing them all as lowercase. The new system is case-sensitive, however. While passwords once were randomly generated, the ARRL IT staff recently implemented a new LoTW password mechanism that lets users choose their own passwords. Under this new system, when users first log in, their passwords are encrypted.

Some users attempting to log in with mixed-case passwords were rejected, however, because the system had stored their passwords as all lowercase. A subsequent modification allows the system to accept a user's mixed-case password and changes the stored password to the user's mixed-case specification. The issue also can present problems for applications, such as logging programs, that employ a user's credentials to access a LoTW account.

Users who encounter trouble logging in to LoTW are being asked to enter their passwords in all lowercase. If that doesn't work, contact the LoTW Help Desk or explore other methods available for LoTW.

Any LoTW users who logged in before this modification was made — at around 2300 UTC on September 19 — had their passwords stored in lowercase, no matter which case they used in entering them. These passwords now must be entered as lowercase. Users who have changed to a new password with mixed-case letters must continue to enter their passwords in mixed-case letters.

ARRL apologizes for underestimating the extent of the problems that would be caused by the lack of password case-sensitivity in the previous LoTW authentication mechanism.



NET CONTROL OPERATORS
1st week of month-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Marcus MacLean, KI6WDX
3rd week of month-Chris Jones, KD7TQO
4th week of month-Brian Hagen, KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

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Tech Topics

GNU Radio is an open source project that can be used to build SDR radios as easily as drawing and connecting functional building blocks. Now there is a project that provides pluggable decoders for GNU Radio to help decode various satellites' telemetry. Though covering non-Amateur satellites, some of the processing blocks support formats and protocols used by amateur satellites, such as AX.25. The project web pages also contain a number of links to other SDR-related software that may be of interest to the SDR experimenter.

The AMSAT news service published a link to an article on using your fist to estimate angular measurements of the sky using your hands and fingers. For example, by holding your fist at arm's length while gazing at the back of your hand, you can measure approximately 10 degrees. Other measurements between 1 and 25 degrees are possible with different hand gestures.

Defective electrolytic capacitors are notorious for causing problems with modern electronics, but an Elektor magazine article noted that between the mid 1940s and the mid 1970s, can-type electrolytic capacitors had issues too. *Radio News* published a picture of an exploding can capacitor in 1947.

From ARRL Contest Update; October 5, 2016

Not One Nation Among Many
An Extrordinary Beacon of Liberty For All

THE BIT BUCKET

Could a cup of COFFEE help protect you from going BLIND?

A HUMBLE cup of coffee could help protect millions from going blind, new research has found.

Just the Thing when you're late night DXing?

Scientists have discovered that a daily espresso, teamed with a healthy diet rich in fruit and vegetables, has a protective effect on the eyes.

They found that coffee consumption can help ward off age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the most common cause of blindness in the elderly.

The debilitating condition already affects 600,000 people in Britain and is set to increase significantly in the next few years as people live longer.

Research has found, for the first time, that those who enjoyed a "Mediterranean" diet rich in fruit and fish, teamed with a strong coffee, were less likely to suffer eye problems.

Researchers studied a Portuguese population to see whether sticking to the diet affected people's risk of AMD.

Their findings revealed a significant reduction in risk in those who ate a Mediterranean diet, particularly among those who consumed more fruit and caffeine

Just 45 per cent of those who drank this amount a day went on to develop AMD compared with 55 per cent of those who did not.

While caffeine is not considered part of the Mediterranean diet, consumption of foods containing caffeine, such as coffee and tea is common in such countries.

The researchers opted to look at caffeine because it is a powerful antioxidant also known to be protective against other conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease.

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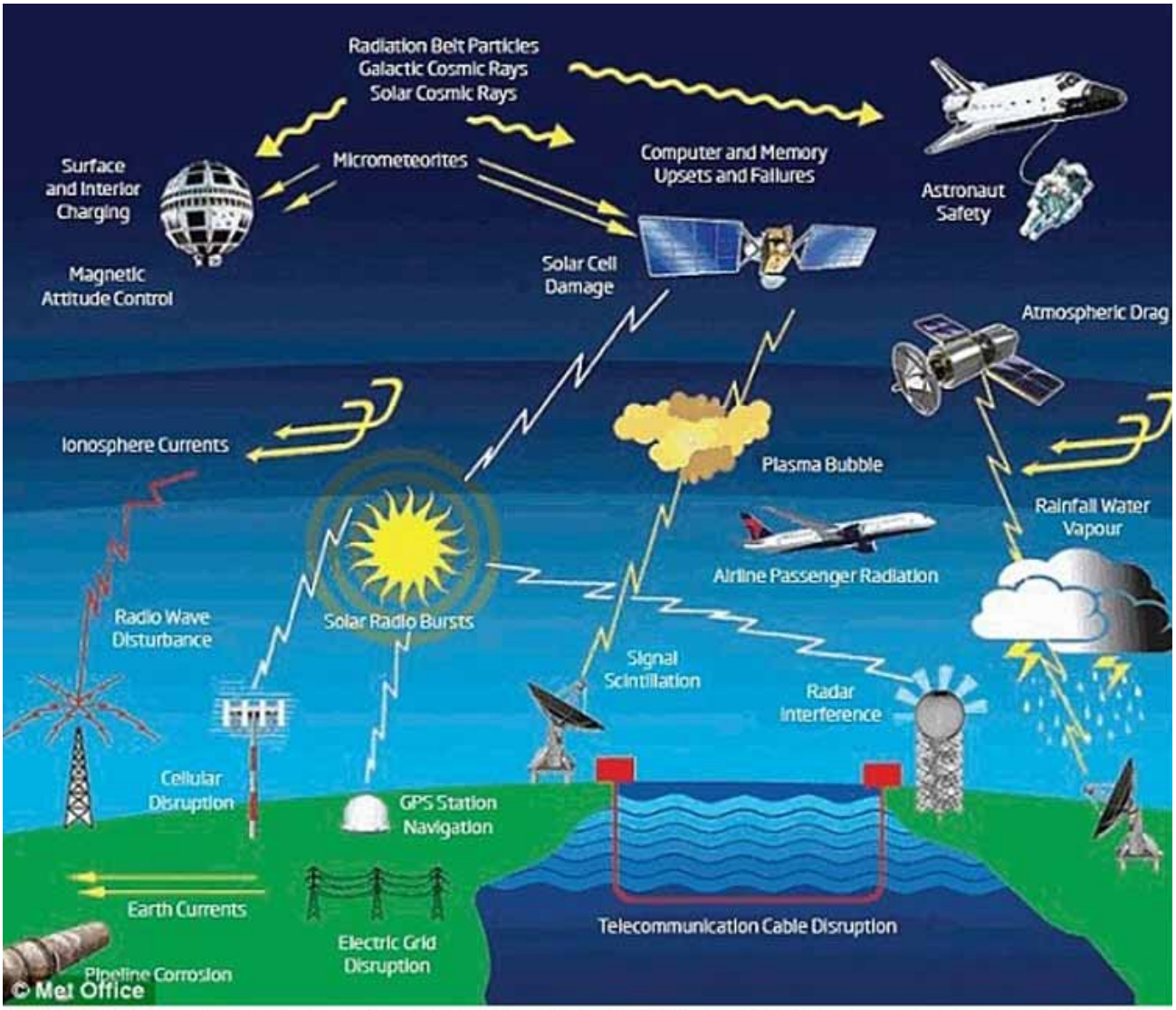


Solar storms could wreak havoc on Earth (pictured) and surges could be up to 100 times more powerful in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin than in other parts of the United States. However, experts say more than half of the US has yet to be plotted due to lack of funding

Cup of Coffee Continued

Dr David Allamby, a laser eye surgeon and medical director at London's Focus Clinic, said: "While the debate rages about the positives and negatives of coffee, this latest research is not surprising.

"A cup of coffee is typically full of nutrients, such as pantothenic acid, vitamin B2, potassium and manganese, while it's also a powerful antioxidant.

"All of this, as has been proved by the scientists in Portugal, is going to aid eye health, and pushes coffee ever further towards 'super-food' status, although this might presently be a well-kept secret."

VVRC Net Plus Schedule 2016

Month	Date	Band	Freq	Mode
Nov	1	73cm	446.000	FM Simplex
	8	2m	146.520	FM Simplex
	15	10m	28.400	USB
	22	20m	14.285	USB
	29	40m	7.200	LSB
Dec	6	80m	3.985	LSB
	13	73cm	446.000	FM Simplex
	20	2m	146.520	FM Simplex
	27	10m	28.400	USB

From the Marine Historical Society at Point Reyes

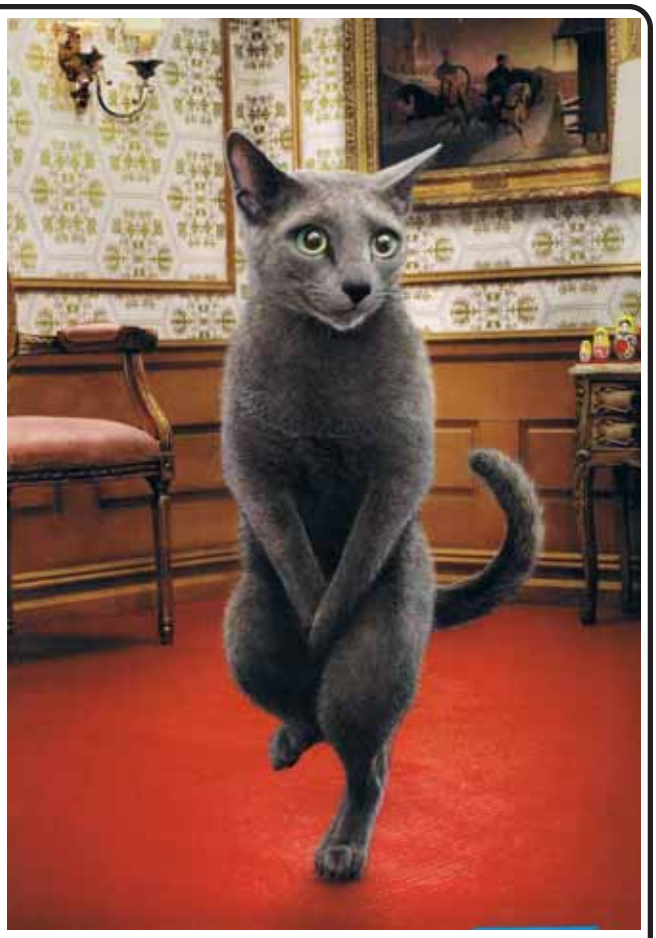
Historic coast stations KPH, KFS, KSM, and WLO will be back on the air

The return of KPH to the airwaves on Saturday 8 October was a great success. Senior KPH Morse operator Ray Smith sent the last message from Bolinas/Point Reyes on 30 July 1997. He was there with us on Saturday to sit in his same operating position and send the message announcing the return of KPH to service.

KPH will be on the air every Saturday and Sunday so be sure to listen on our new frequencies:

4247.0, 6477.5, 8642.0, 12808.5, 17016.8, 22477.5

Subscribe the MRHS Newsletter HERE



OOOkay, The newsletters done....GOTTA GO!!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — July 2016 — Dues are payable annually

FCC Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Name Badge Name:_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____
FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $25.00 _____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
Repeater donation ---------- _____

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143